

October 2, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

The Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) is writing in support of the Section 1115 waiver amendment to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) submitted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) on September 1, 2015.

MSMS represents approximately 16,000 Michigan physicians of all specialties. In keeping with our mission to "promote a health care environment that supports physicians in caring for and enhancing the health of Michigan citizens through science, quality, and ethics in the practice of medicine," MSMS strongly supports the continuation of Michigan's Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP). To date, more than 600,000 Michigan residents have benefited from coverage provided through the HMP. Michigan's physicians have been committed to ensuring access and quality care for this patient population. As a result, hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries have visited a primary care physician and many have received preventive care services and screenings.

We are proud of Michigan's success in implementing the HMP and appreciative of the collaborative tone set by the MDHHS. Working in cooperation with the MDHHS, MSMS was able to provide input into the development of policy and resources necessary to launch and grow the HMP. We anticipate that the opportunities for interaction, problem-solving, and input will continue to exist should Michigan's waiver amendment be approved.

MSMS encourages CMS to work with the MDHHS to finalize and approve a waiver amendment that satisfies the intent of Michigan Public Act 107 of 2013, provides appropriate safeguards for beneficiaries, and enables the HMP to continue beyond April 30, 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support. MSMS looks forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure that HMP beneficiaries are able to retain coverage and embrace healthy behaviors under conditions outlined in a final waiver amendment.

Sincerely,



Rose M. Ramirez, MD
President